

Correspondence to 366 Huon Rd. Sth. Hobart, 7000. Sightings 23-6009 or 72-7479

Did you know we had a "flap"?

A couple of sightings each month from February through to April gave way in May and June to a spate of 'unexplaineds' through the Hobart to Tasman Peninsula area.

After a run of reports about August 1976 the number of unexplaineds had fallen away, but the Centre still continued to receive a number of reports from a variety of location around the state. Sightings were made in the last three months of last year from Macquarie Harbour, Tamar Valley, Tunbridge area, and Cradoc in the Huon Valley.

Reports late in March at Mt. Stuart, followed by sightings at Collins Cap and Park Beach led to the run of cases in May and June, the sightings seemed to have eased off in July.

Early reports in the flap were covered in our previous Newsletter (May) but the bulk of the cases have occurred since then.

March 28th saw an erratic whizzing light seen on three occasions in just over half an hour from Mt. Stuart. The witnesses at differing locations all saw a large light that moved erratically back and forth. One witness felt as if the light had for a second or so shone a bright orange light on her. The other two witnesses saw the light in the sky and heard a whizzing noise as it moved away.

Our next report of interest was a few days later at Collins Cap (April 5th) when a lone witness spotted a dome shaped area of light with six flashing lights about the base. The witness was watching TV with no lights on and the curtains drawn, the object was noticed over trees some 400 to 500 mts away. It remained in the area for about 30 minutes then lost elevation as if to land behind the trees. The witness went to call her husband but it had disappeared by the time he came to have a look. Some nights later another strange event occurred at the farm, a flash of white light was seen at the kitchen window and strange banging noises heard, the noises continued off and on for some time.

Further nocturnal lights were seen in April and early May at Montrose, New Town, and Kingston. Other reports from that time period just investigated were of a disc area of light seen near Lenah Valley on April 30th, and a number of red and green lights seen out over the sea from Park Beach.

The end of May saw a run of sightings starting from a series of orange lights seen at Port Huon and a nocturnal white light that moved in front of Mt. Direction, there were no aircraft about at the time.

The last few days to early June there were four sightings from the Tasman Peninsula, most being lights in the sky. In the two more interesting reports a large white light seen very low over Norfolk Bay; it climbed away into the north western sky. In the other sighting Mr. O. Bitterman was driving home to Nubeena on May 30th at 6.30pm. He saw blue flashes lighting up the area; these flashes were seen by another witness in Nubeena. Bitterman then noticed a large white and orange coloured light out over Storm Bay, it was the source of the flashes. He arrived home and called out to his wife and they both watched the object move slowly away towards the South Arm direction. A neighbour complained that at the time of the sighting his TV set suffered interference.

After a sighting of lights from the East Side Drive In on June 11th our reports seemed to come from further afield. A light seen in the early hours at Scamander, then a large circular white object was seen at 5.00am from New Norfolk, half an hour later a white bright light was observed from Kempton. Our Kempton witness saw the light come over a hill to the east, level out, then go slowly south. She set off for work and kept the light in sight for several kilometers as it travelled away to the south east.

The day after the Kempton sighting the Centre had a close encounter case from another southern country town, this time it was Richmond. Our witness was on the way home on June 23rd at 7.30pm. Just north of Richmond the witness could see a pinkish flashing light ahead, it seemed to move over the town. Arriving in a deserted town the witness was fascinated to see that the light was on a rectangular shape hovering about 30 mts distant. The object was estimated as being 3 mts long and about 1mt high. Thinking she could get a better view from the other side the witness slowly moved off to go round the block but the object went off to the north west in a matter of seconds. On arriving home a few minutes later the witness saw that the UFO had returned. She felt a bit disturbed by now and went inside until her husband came home.

Two nights later the UFO's returned to Hobart in the early hours. This time a motorist was followed on the Brooker Highway to Goodwood. The object appeared as a circle of flashing lights that took up a position above the car, then was seen stationary in the



northern sky when the witness arrived home.

There was a rest then until July 2nd when a light appeared behind a car on the road to Sandfly. The car suffered a brief loss of power but was restarted after the light had disappeared. July 3rd brought two sightings from Oatlands of a cylindrical object south east of the town which seemed to have flashing lights on it, the same evening a distraught motorist reported seeing a large cylinder object near the road from York Plains (just north of Oatlands). Unfortunately he didn't leave his name with the Police.

At the time of writing, a few other interesting sightings are being investigated,. A Midland Highway case later in July when a silver cylinder with a rope like tail below was seen near Conara, a large yellow light seen crossing the sky near Beaconsfield in mid August, and a Great Lake sighting from J. Dean.

It is interesting to note that the Hobart area has had its most sightings ever for a calendar year, and the year is not yet over. At the time of writing there have been 12 UFO cases in the city and suburbs, the next best year was 1973 with 6, then 71 with 5. Another point is the year 1974 when there were only 3 unidentified reports; at that time there were dozens of cases from the North East through to the Midlands. The sighting flaps seem to have moved southward with each year. Where do we go from here??

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HERALD 26.4.77 "SPACE MONSTER" HAUNTS FAMILY.

London, Mon. Farmer's wife Pauline Coombs says she keeps being pestered by UFO's, not to mention a man from outer space.

Her nightmare sightings so far included a red and orange ball swooping through the sky, a flying football shaped fireball chasing her car, and a faceless mystery being staring through her lounge window.

A spate of UFO's has been reported in the west Wales area. Now a huge "spaceman" has appeared at the window while Mrs. Coombs was watching television with her husband. It was silver in colour and had a luminous glow. "I didn't say anything to Billy in case he laughed at me - I've had a lot of leg pulling. The figure had been there looking in for more than an hour when Billy suddenly noticed it and jumped up. He said it looked like a man in a silver suit. It was about seven to eight feet tall.

It was the shape of a human but its face was black with no features. The couple phoned the Police, and when a neighbour drove up the figure just vanished.

Note...From a recent issue of the English Flying Saucer Review it seems that the same or similar figure has been seen by others in the area along with a "flap" of UFO sightings including landings and auto pacings.

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#### AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS FOR 1976

Details are to hand from the Australian Co-Ordination Section (ACOS) for the Centre for UFO Studies of Australian sighting statistics.

The 22.5% unidentified compares with the Air Force's figures of 10.26% for 1976, if it is remembered that the Air Force mostly receives Nocturnal light cases, which have a higher identification rate than the more representative sample reported to the groups. The majority of reports were Nocturnal lights and came from males in the age group of 31-40 year old, compared to 1975 when the majority came from males also, but in the 16-20 year old bracket.

The greatest number of sightings were made between the hours of 6.00pm and midnight (same as 1975), but on Saturday nights, compared with Friday in 1975. The least number of reports were made from 6.00pm to midnight on Monday and midnight to noon on Tuesday. Monthly the highest activity seems to have occurred in October, February and September, compared to 1975 when highest activity was in March, May and August. Other points of interest, single witness cases accounted for only 34.3% of the unidentifieds, whilst 45.95% of sightings were received by groups through telephone calls. In 15 cases the witnesses came within 50 metres of the UFO. Nearly 70% of all reports gave colours of the objects as white or having some colour towards the red end of the spectrum. This is in accord with global trends. A break down of UFO's for the states was ... NSW 42, TAS 31, WA 11, SA 8, QLD 3, VIC 4 which gives 99 for the year. (The Centre's unexplaineds climbed eventually to 38 for 1976).

This year we have had 28 unidentified reports out of 115 reports at the end of August, last year in the same period the Centre had received 137 cases to check out and had 30 UFO's.

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#### Odds and Ends

TVT 6 early in August presented a well balanced programme in their "This Week" series on Tasmanian UFO sightings. They went to a deal of trouble to arrange interviews and drawings of the objects sighted, the witnesses were quite free to give their own account of what had happened whilst the viewer was left to make his own decision on the subject. The next publication should be our Annual Report out early 1978, we are hoping this time it will be offset printed, this should ensure a better finish to the Report. This year we sold 645 Reports, a far cry from the 30 sales of 1970.

MAKE A NOTE NOW, Annual Meeting at Scots Church rooms 8.00pm October 14th, any queries to the Secretary (Keith Roberts Phone Home 23-6009).